

CONFIDENTIAL  
UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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**CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN**

WNP-28

LASERS AND LASER APPLICATIONS

June 20, 1969

This bulletin supersedes Classification Bulletin WNP-23.

At a meeting held at the AEC Headquarters in Washington, representatives of the Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, and their contractors, formulated a new laser classification policy which would be applied to the laser work being performed in both agencies.

The policy agreed upon by the conferees is stated below and is now in effect:

1. Lasers which are capable of power outputs of  $10^5$  joules or more in ten nanoseconds or less
2. Work on or with plasmas which utilize external inertial confinement or external inertial compression

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NOTE: Inertial means that the pressure required to compress or confine is derived from the acceleration or deceleration of condensed matter. However, heating all or part of an isolated homogeneous mass by a focused energy source is not classified.

Compression or confinement of plasma solely by means of electromagnetic fields is unclassified.

Information on plasma confinement by neutral gases is unclassified.

Confinement by unheated fuel itself is not external inertial confinement, and is unclassified.

Once information is determined not to be classified pursuant to the foregoing principles, it may still be classified if one or more of the following provisions apply:

1. Classified information concerning laser devices which incorporate special nuclear material is Restricted Data.

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~~This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

~~Downgraded 12 year interval, not automatically declassified~~

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Department of Energy/Declassification Review

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2. Review Date: 8/17/89

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4. News + status  
Laser General




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2. Classified information concerning other laser devices which discloses any of the following applications for those devices is Restricted Data insofar as it discloses the fact of such application or the manner or method of such application:
  - a. The production of energy involving the use of special nuclear material not incorporated in the laser; or
  - b. The production of special nuclear material; or
  - c. The design, manufacture or use of atomic weapons.

The categorization as Defense Information of a device requiring classification under the foregoing principles would not be affected by its use in work classified as Restricted Data, but any information disclosing the association of the device with such work would itself be Restricted Data.

A laser device which requires classification under the foregoing principles must be categorized as Restricted Data when the circumstances surrounding its development disclose an intended use or application of the device in connection with work classified as Restricted Data. It would not be classified as Restricted Data if the circumstances of development indicate that there are potential non-RD (e.g., non-atomic weapon) applications and do not disclose any discernible connection between the device and the Restricted Data applications.



C. L. Marshall, Director  
Division of Classification

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